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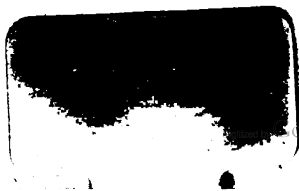
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1825

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S. H 1826
INSTRUCTION

FOR THE

FIELD SERVICE

OF

Cavalry.

Translated from the German of Count Bismark

BY CAPTAIN L. BEAMISH,

4th DRAGOON GUARDS.

LONDON :

GEO. E. WHITTAKER, AVE-MARIA-LANE.

1826.

26



SMACKELL AND ARROWSMITH, JOHNSON'S-COURT.

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

FREDERICK,

DUKE OF YORK AND ALBANY,

FIELD MARSHAL, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, K. G.

&c. &c. &c.

THE FOLLOWING WORK IS,

(BY PERMISSION,)

MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED BY

THE TRANSLATOR.

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

THE following pages contain a translation of General Count Bismark's celebrated little work, entitled "Feld-dienst Instruction fur die Kavallerie."

The several publications of this distinguished officer on the tactics, &c. of cavalry, have met with high and de-

served approbation on the Continent, and cannot fail of being duly appreciated by all military men.

The Field Service Instruction was originally written for the use of the Wurtemberg cavalry, in 1820, and in the second edition, of which the following is a translation, was re-modelled by a highly talented officer of the Prussian Staff, Major C. Von Decker, for the more general use of all cavalry, and published at Berlin, in May, 1831.

This little concise work, (more calculated to impress on the memory the chief principles of this branch of service, than to explain its minute

details")* produced a great sensation in Poland; it was published at Warsaw, and in the short period of one month passed through two editions.

The Editor of the Berlin edition thus expresses himself:—

“As to the nobility and value of the Field Service Instruction, I abstain from all judgment, although I am fully convinced that it must be highly acceptable to every reflecting cavalry officer; it is, however, a pleasing duty to me, in the name of my brothers in arms, thus publicly to thank the author for the

* *Gritoyrnopen Nrun Bisan*, No. X. 1822.

valuable present which he has made us."

The Translator, aware of the extreme difficulty of rendering the German language with the full force of the original, has used his utmost exertions to preserve the purity and vigour of Count Bismark's style, and confidently hopes that the submission of this little work to the British army will but serve to encrease the already extended fame of its distinguished author.

Hanover, January 10th, 1825.

CONTENTS.

Translator's Preface	Page. iii
Author's Preface	vii

PART THE FIRST.

On the Service of Cavalry in Reference to the Safety of the Army.

SECTION I.

POSITION.

Questions.		Page.
1 to 15.	A.—Camp	1
16—24.	B.—Cantoning	4

Questions.		Page.
25—48.	<i>C.</i> —Field Guards.....	5
49—55.	<i>D.</i> —Pickets	9
56—59.	<i>E.</i> —Reserve Pickets	10
60—72.	<i>F.</i> —Detached Posts	1b.
73—107.	<i>G.</i> —Videttes	13

SECTION II.

MOVEMENT.

108 to 132.	<i>A.</i> —Van Guard	21
123—144.	<i>B.</i> —Rear Guard	26
145—155.	<i>C.</i> —Flank-troops	29
156—171.	<i>D.</i> —Escort	31
172—200.	<i>E.</i> —Patroles	34

SECTION III.

201—219.	<i>A.</i> —Preparation.....	40
220—229.	<i>B.</i> —Skirmishing	43
230—238.	<i>C.</i> —Engagement	45

PART THE SECOND.

On the Service of Cavalry in Reference to the Enemy.

SECTION I.

RECONNOITRING.

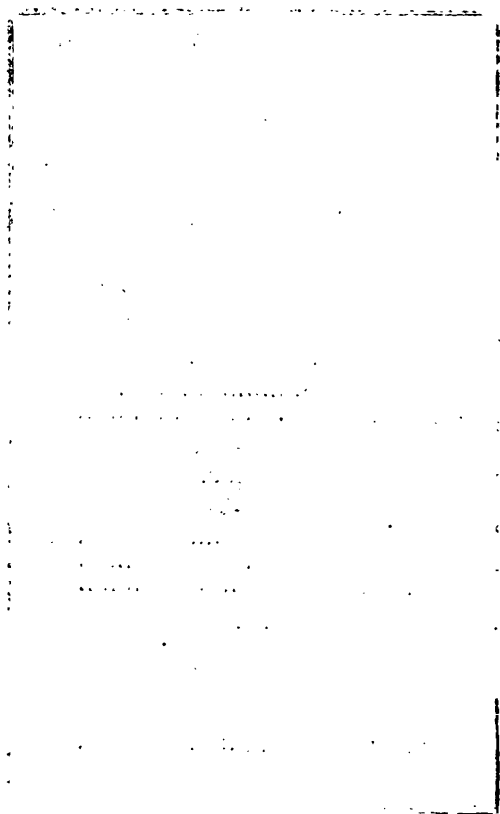
239—243.	A.—Open.....	47
244—285.	B.—Secret	48

SECTION II.

286—324.	A.—Coup de main.....	57
325—334.	B.—Harassing	64
335—340.	C.—Sham-Attack	66

SECTION III.

341—410.	Petty Warfare.....	68
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AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

As the various situations and casualties attendant upon a war cannot be previously determined, no undeviating rules can be prescribed. To the individual reflection and intelligence of the officer must the proper application

of those principles be committed, which should be regulated by time and circumstance.

According to these principles has the following "Field Service Instruction" been compiled, and is only to be considered as the means of pointing out a mode of instruction for the men. The instruction should be given freely, and communicated in such a manner as to inspire the recruit with confidence in his instructor, who therefore must not confine himself mechanically to the given questions, nor be content with the corresponding given answer; but divide the subject into such appropriate parts,

that the Recruit shall at length acquire a clear conception of its meaning.

This is the method which is here prescribed.

PART THE FIRST.

ON THE SERVICE OF THE CAVALRY IN REFERENCE TO THE SAFETY OF THE ARMY.

SECTION I.

POSITION.

A.—*Camp.*

1. WHAT is a camp ?

A position of rest in the open field,

2. At what period of a war is an encampment made ?

When two armies are so near that a constant state of readiness for action is required.

B

3. In this case, where are the cavalry to be encamped which are intended for the protection of the army ?

In a semi-circle before it.

4. At what distance ?

From one to two or three cannon shots' distance : or 2,000 to 6,000 paces, according to circumstances and to the nature of the ground.

5. What is to be principally considered in the choice of a position ?

Full freedom of manœuvre for action.

6. Where, therefore, should natural obstructions be situated, (such as hollow ways, morasses, villages, &c.) before or behind the front ?

Before the front.

7. At what distance ?

At least 800 paces, or the distance of the fire of a six-pounder.

8. When may a position be considered good ?

When the enemy's intentions are defeated by natural impediments.

9. What is a necessary condition of every position ?

Freedom of retreat.

10. What are the best situations for camps ?

Firm meadow ground, and corn fields.

11. What is to be ascertained before the selection of every position ?

That a supply of water for the horses can be procured.

12. In a bad season where should the encampment be made ?

Near a village.

13. May it be placed in a garden ?

By no means.

14. Are guards necessary ?

Yes : every regiment, squadron, or troop, which is detached, has a camp-guard ?

15. What is the duty of the camp-guard ?

Generally, the ordinary duty of a barrack-guard in time of peace.

B.—*Cantoning.*

16. What is understood by cantoning ?

The quartering of the troops in villages.

17. May troops be at ease when so quartered in time of war ?

No.

18. May they be unsaddled during the day ?

Not without orders.

19. What is done during the night ?

Every man remains accoutred by his horse.

20. When are they bridled ?

At midnight.

21. Is this sufficient for their safety, supposing that the enemy is near, and posted opposite ?

No.

22. What further must be done ?

Two hours before day-break they must march out, either partially or entirely, according to circumstances.

23. What is done if the enemy attacks them ?

Each man hastens with all possible speed to the place where he had previously paraded.

24. What is this place called ?

Alarm-post.

C.—*Field-Guards.*

25. What are field-guards ?

Guards placed in the open field towards the enemy.

26. What is their use ?

Security from the enemy as long as the army is at rest.

27. Where are field-guards placed ?

Under cover of any objects that offer.

28. For example ?

Behind small thickets, rising grounds, hedges, an old wall, a single house, &c.

29. Why are they so placed ?

To enable them to observe, and remain concealed.

30. Is this position changed in the night ?

Yes.

31. In what manner ?

They advance into the open country.

32. For what purpose ?

Because they have more power of observation, and less chance of being surprised.

33. How far may the field-guards, &c. be from the camp or quarter ?

Not less than three-quarters of a mile, and not more than three miles.

34. Upon what do these distances depend ?

Upon the nature of the ground, and the existing circumstances.

35. Of what should a field-guard be most careful ?

Not to be surprised.

36. How can that be prevented ?

By uninterrupted vigilance.

37. May the guards feed their horses and rest during the day ?

Yes : but only partially ; and no man may either quit his post, or lay down his arms.

38. What is done towards evening ?

An hour before sunset all must bridle.

39. What is done in the night ?

All remain awake.

40. And after midnight ?

Half of the men mount.

41. And towards morning ?

All mount.

42. Under whose orders are the entire of the field-guards of an army ?

Under a general or staff officer of the

day, to whom every thing must be reported.

43. Do field-guards salute ?

No.

44.* Has every field-guard also another guard ?

Yes: the mounted troop of observation.

45. What is the strength of it ?

A non-commissioned officer and two men.

46. What is their duty ?

Incessantly to observe the videttes.

47. And further ?

To examine all persons who may arrive.

48. May this continued precaution be suspended in bad weather ?

No: it should, on the contrary, be redoubled.

* The measures recommended from 44 to 46 are only customary in some armies.

D.—Pickets.

49. What is a picket ?

A post detached from the field-guards.

50. What is the strength of it ?

Six, or, at most, twelve men.

51. How are pickets to conduct themselves ?

In the same manner as the field-guards.

52. Where are pickets posted ?

Where the ground is uneven, and does not admit of being entirely seen.

53. But where are such pickets posted ?

Sometimes on the flank, sometimes in front of the field-guards, sometimes in rear of the camp.

54. Upon what points ?

Upon those points beyond the field-guard line, which are of importance, and ought to be occupied.

10 **FIELD SERVICE OF CAVALRY.**

55. To whom do the pickets report ?

To those field-guards from which they are detached.

E.—Assistant Posts, or Reserve Pickets.

56. When do the reserve pickets move out ?

In the evening.

57. What is their duty ?

To assist the field-guards in case of a night assault.

58. Where are they posted ?

Between the camp or quarter and the field-guards.

59. May the reserve pickets be at ease ?

No : every man stands to his horse.

F.—Advanced or Detached Posts.

60. On what occasions are detached posts employed ?

When an important pass or commanding height is situated beyond the line of the outposts.

61. In what manner should such a post conduct itself?

With extreme caution, attention, and activity.

62. Is it to expect assistance on being attacked?

No.

63. When thus obliged to depend upon itself, by what means can it be preserved from surprise?

By frequently changing its position.

64. How is this to be understood?

Such a post may move right, left, forwards, or backwards, provided the principal point still remains observed.

65. In what consists the principal safety of such posts?

In many small patrols.

12 FIELD SERVICE OF CAVALRY.

66. How is such a patrol to conduct itself on falling in with the enemy ?

While one man conveys the intelligence to the detachment by the nearest route, the two others move off in a circuitous direction.

67. For what purpose ?

To deceive the enemy.

68. How does a detachment act, when attacked by a superior force ?

Two men convey immediate intelligence to the army.

69. And afterwards ?

The detachment retires by one or more roads, previously determined on.

70. May the inhabitants of the country be trusted ?

In an enemy's country, never !

71. Of what should a detached post be particularly careful ?

Not to be attacked and taken in the rear.

72. What is every dragoon's principal duty

in all their different guards, detachments, and posts.

Never to retire; to obey scrupulously the orders of his superiors, and with cheerfulness and courage indefatigably to bear and execute whatever any situation or circumstance may at any time bring upon him.

G.—*Videttes.*

73. What is a vidette ?

A mounted centry.

74. Are there two kinds of videttes ?

Yes, single and double.

75. Where are the double ones placed ?

Upon cross-roads, bridges, fords, defiles, and upon important heights.

76. Where are single videttes placed ?

In the space between the double ones.

77. What is a fundamental rule in the posting of videttes ?

14 FIELD SERVICE OF CAVALRY.

That they shall form a connected line.

78. What is this called ?

Line or chain of videttes.

79. What must be attended to in the disposition of this line ?

That nothing can pass through it unobserved.

80. What are the best positions for videttes by day ?

Eminences.

81. And by night ?

Low situations.

82. Why ?

Because at that time, whatever occurs on the heights, can be clearly perceived from low situations.

83. At what distance from a field-guard or picket, should a vidette be placed ?

1500 paces, or three quarters of a mile.

84. May videttes allow any one to pass towards the enemy's side ?

None, except those formed troops, which are sent from our army against the enemy.

85. But how are they to act, in case some one approaches them from the enemy's side ?

Single individuals, appearing to be civilians, are directed to the field-guards.

86. But suppose that individual soldiers of our army approach them ?

They are only allowed to pass on giving the parole correctly, or if they are personally known to the vidette..

87. Suppose, however, that soldiers of the enemy present themselves ?

They can only be allowed to pass on giving themselves up as deserters, and willingly laying down their arms ; and this should only be permitted to one man at a time.

88. What is done afterwards ?

They are sent to the field-guard.

16 **FIELD SERVICE OF CAVALRY.**

89. Should none of these three cases occur, how is a vidette to conduct himself?

The person or persons arriving are detained, and the field-guard informed, in order that the troop of examination may move up.

90. But suppose the persons arriving are officers from the enemy, or trumpeters, who appear under pretence of a parley?

They are detained, and ordered to turn their faces backwards, until the troop of examination comes up,

91. What is done in case of a single waggon, &c. appearing?

It is likewise detained until the examination troop arrives.

92. Suppose the persons arriving will not suffer themselves to be detained?

They must in that case be fired on.

93. If a vidette observes in the distance

troops, waggons, clouds of dust, &c. how is he to act ?

He should ride in small circles, as a signal to the field-guard.

94. But if the troops or objects move with force and rapidity ?

The vidette then turns his horse so much the quicker and shorter.

95. Is it necessary that all the videttes of the line, who see the objects, should act in the same manner.

Yes.

96. When these objects are however evidently troops, and move directly, and rapidly towards the vidette, though yet unknown to him : how is he to act ?

He should fire at the distance of 150 paces.

97. But if the vidette knows them to be enemy's troops at a greater distance ?

He should then immediately fire.

98. How is a vidette to conduct himself, if he discovers the enemy on such points as are not immediately opposite to him, or which he was not particularly ordered to observe, viz. in the rear, or flank, of the line?

He must, in like manner, immediately fire.

99. In these several cases, what is to be observed previous to firing?

That a most minute examination be made, in order to prevent the creation of any unnecessary alarm.

100. By night, however, this is not easily accomplished : how, therefore, is a vidette then to conduct himself?

He must take advantage of his hearing—his attention must be redoubled on every side, on every noise, he must ride confidently from twenty-five to forty paces, in the direction from which it proceeds ; halt, then challenge, and again listen.

101. What conduct would be highly blameable, and followed by the severest punishment?

That of a vidette giving himself up to delusions, and firing upon every one that may appear, without any inquiry, and then running away, without being able to give the field-guard a just and consistent account.

102. How can a vidette avoid such a fault?

By constant vigilance, by never wrapping himself up in his cloak, by day or by night, in fair or foul weather; by never being afraid, but boldly riding up to and coolly and calmly examining every person that comes up.

103. What has a vidette particularly to attend to in wet and windy weather?

That his horse's croup is never turned to the wind or rain.

104. Must videttes also observe the conduct of their comrades?

Yes—they must inform the field-guard of any neglect of duty on their part.

105. Is it necessary that a vidette should report circumstances that may occur having no reference to the enemy?

Yes. Videttes must report all that they see and hear, though apparently of no importance.

106. There are often some important points, lying a little in front of the line of videttes, and therefore occupied by three men, what is the duty of these men?

One man makes a circuit of three-quarters of a mile, while the others conduct themselves as the videttes.

107. When an attack from the enemy commences, and the videttes can no longer maintain their position, what is their duty?

To retire skirmishing, right and left, towards the field-guards, but not in a direct line.

SECTION II.

MOVEMENT.

A.—*Van Guard.*

108. What is understood by the movement of troops in war ?

The march.

109. What is the first principle, when a march is undertaken ?

That its safety should be provided for.

110. How is this accomplished ?

By means of the van-guard, rear-guard, and flank-troops.

111. What does the van-guard consist of ?

About a fourth of that part of the column which marches in close file at the head.

22 FIELD SERVICE OF CAVALRY.

112. When this fourth part is a squadron, how does it form the van-guard ?

It marches 600 paces in front of the regiment, and sends forward a division 300 paces in advance.

113. What does this division do ?

It furnishes a party of one non-commissioned officer, and eight men, advanced at the distance of 150 paces.

114. Does this advanced party remain united ?

No. Three men are sent forward to the distance of seventy-five paces from it, as an extreme point ?

115. Why three men ?

In order that two may be always in advance while one reports.

116. How should the van-guard act, in order to provide for the safety of the troops which follow ?

It should prevent, by its vigilance, any

advance being made upon those troops without its permission ; and make immediate report of every new and important appearance.

117. Through whom is this report made ?

Through the before mentioned three men, who being the most advanced, gain the first intelligence ; one of these is appointed to make the report.

118. In what manner is the report conveyed ?

The reporter rides back with the intelligence to the squadron officer, communicating it, as he passes, to the advanced party and division.

119. Why is it necessary that the same man should ride so far back ?

Because he has himself seen what he reports, and therefore no misunderstanding can take place.

120. What is next necessary to be done ?

24 FIELD SERVICE OF CAVALRY.

The advanced party must replace the man who was sent with the report.

121. Is the vigilance of the van-guard to be extended only to those troops, or men, they may observe ?

No. It must also be directed to the ground and country.

122. If the van-guard meets with villages, or defiles, how is it to act ?

The three men at the head must place themselves in conjunction with the flank-troops, and thoroughly search the place.

123. How is the van-guard to act in the interim ?

The van-guard must wait until it receives satisfactory intelligence of the safety of the defile, from the advanced and flank-troops.

124. What is the reason of this ?

Because the van-guard should not pass any defile before it is in our possession.

125. When is it in our possession ?

When the advanced troops have searched through it, and the flank troops have gone round it.

126. If the advance unexpectedly falls in with the enemy, how does it act?

One man fires, and immediately reports.

127. How do the other troops act?

They form a chain of skirmishers, and await further instructions.

128. What is necessary to the van-guard, in order to prevent their losing the true line of march?

It must always be provided with at least two good and safe guides; from whom, either by promises or threats, intelligence must be obtained.

129. How is this enquiry further extended?

By questioning all persons they may meet with regard to the enemy, &c.

130. What precaution is taken by the different divisions of the van-guard, by

night, during bad weather, and in rough ground.

The communication is kept up by single dragoons.

131. If the van-guard by night, or in misty, or bad weather, suddenly falls in with the enemy, without being able clearly to distinguish him, what is to be done ?

It must rush in upon the enemy without deliberation.

132. What is the advantage of this ?

That the enemy is surprised, and may easily be thrown into disorder.

B.—*Rear-Guard.*

133. Of what does the rear-guard consist ?

It is a body of the same strength in the rear, as the van-guard in the front.

134. How is the rear-guard formed ?

Like the van-guard, but in reverse order.

135. How should the rear-guard conduct

itself in order to provide for the safety of the column of march ?

It must, under all circumstances, keep the rear clear.

136. But if the enemy threatens an attack ?

It forms a line of skirmishers, which conforms itself according to the principles laid down for skirmishing.

137. If the enemy forces this line, and presses forward ?

Then nothing remains but to attack him, without waiting for his charge.

138. If the rear-guard should succeed in this, is the enemy to be pursued ?

No : advantage must be taken of his disorder, for making a quick retreat.

139. When the rear-guard comes to a defile, how is it to act ?

It must place itself before it, and halt, until the column of march has passed, and is clear of it.

140. And then ?

It passes the defile at a quick pace, and resumes its position.

141. In what other manner may a narrow pass be sometimes efficaciously defended without charging ?

By a well-directed carbine fire.

142. What further can a rear-guard effect, in order to check the pursuing enemy ?

It must destroy all passages and approaches, or at least make them as useless as possible.

143. Is the rear-guard dispensed with on an advance ?

No: but it is reduced to the sixteenth of that part of the column which marches in close file at the rear.

144. What additional duty has the rear-guard to perform, as well in advance as in retreat ?

It is the police-guard, which watches over

the regulation of the march, and allows no person to remain behind.

C.—Flank Troops.

145. Of what do the flank troops consist?

Generally a non-commissioned officer and eight men, for each flank.

146. From whence are these men taken?

From the squadron of the van-guard.

147. How are the flank troops formed?

They ride two and two on each side of the van-guard, from the head to the rear of the same.

148. How do they protect the column of march?

They search all villages, farm-houses, thickets, small entrances, and by-ways, and ascend all eminences which afford a view.

149. In what manner do these flank troops search thickets, farms, &c.?

While one rides into the thicket, farm,

&c. the other halts at a short distance, with his piece cocked.

150. How do they search by-ways, &c. ?

Two men must patrol up to a point from which a view can be obtained.

151. When do these two men return ?

They remain as double videttes in the by-road, until the head of the column arrives, then report to the colonel, and again ride forward.

152. How do the flank troops provide for their own safety ?

They remain always in connexion with the advanced guard, and do every thing in conjunction with it.

153. Suppose that the enemy attacks ?

They then unite themselves with the vanguard in a skirmishing line.

154. What must the flank troops and vanguard continually observe with regard to their pace ?

That it be always regulated by that of the following column.

155. As many cases may occur to the safety troops of an army in time of war, which cannot here be mentioned, how is every commander to apply the before-mentioned rules?

He must adapt his movements to the ground, the time of the day, and of the year, and the state of the weather; observe the vicinity of the enemy, his intentions and strength, and accordingly act with the more caution and freedom.

D.—*Escort.*

156. What is meant by an escort?

The protection which a transport of military stores receives from an accompanying guard.

157. How does this accompanying guard conduct itself ?

It is divided into advance-guard, rear-guard, and flank troops.

158. Is it difficult for cavalry to escort a transport ?

Yes : because cavalry is at all times better adapted for attack than defence.

159. What must the escort first do in order to secure their march ?

Clear the country by means of the advance guard, for a considerable distance in front.

160. What is to be done if the transport meets with a defile, and has to expect an attack ?

It must move off on each side.

161. For what purpose ?

In order that the escort may act.

162. When it is necessary to feed and rest, what is done with the waggons ?

They are formed into several lines.

163. And the escort ?

Take up a position around them,

164. Where should a transport halt at night?

If possible under the protection of an occupied town.

165. If this is not possible?

Then a barricado of waggons is to be erected.

166. In what manner?

The whole transport is divided into five equal parts.

167. How are these parts arranged?

Four thereof are placed in four rows, so that the shafts of one waggon rest always on the back part of the other.

168. Why?

Because in the three lanes which are thus formed, the horses can be placed and fed.

169. Where is the remaining fifth part placed?

At the distance of from twenty-five to thirty paces, forming a line of waggons round the barricado.

170. Where is the escort placed ?

The guards and posts outside, those off duty in the circle behind the line of waggons.

171. What is done if the enemy attacks during the march ?

The waggons are placed in the middle, and proceed in two lines, while a part of the escort endeavour to drive off the enemy.

E.—Patroles.

172. What are patroles ?

Patroles are small divisions of troops sent in advance, to secure the march or position of the army.

173. What is the difference between these and reconnoitring parties ?

The object of the reconnoitring party is the enemy and his position ; that of the patrole the safety of the army.

174. May patrols come in contact with the enemy ?

No : they merely march to a determined point, and then return.

175. How do they provide for the safety of the army ?

By traversing the country, and collecting information from observations made beyond the horizon of the army.

176. Are there many kinds of patrols ?

Two, great and small.

177. What is the strength of the great patrols ?

From five to nine men.

178. What is their duty ?

The great patrols are sent out two hours before day and night, or oftener, at undetermined times, and for uncertain distances.

179. How far generally ?

From three to six miles.

180. To what places ?

To the neighbouring villages, farms, woods, mills, &c. in order to search them; the banks of a river must be particularly observed.

181. In what manner do patrols search a place?

Skirmishers surround it, and three men seek the constable or magistrate, and bring him to the commander of the party.

182. How is this performed by night?

One or two men steal on foot to the first house through the gardens, listen, and with as little noise as possible, cause some person to come out, whom they bring to the commander.

183. How are thickets searched?

By an extended line, according to the manner of driving game.

184. What facilitates the search.

A height, which commands a view, this is occupied by one man being placed there.

185. If patrols, on their march, are

obliged to leave behind them, bridges, cross-roads, &c. how ought they to act ?

They ought to occupy these places, if no other retreat can be provided.

186. How should patrols move in advance, and how in retreat ?

Cautious and slow in advance, quick in retreat.

187. From whom should principally patrols collect information ?

From magistrates, postmasters, parish priests, constables, innkeepers, sportsmen, pedlars, &c.

188. What is the duty of patrols when attacked ?

To endeavour to drive the enemy off, by anticipating his charge.

189. If this miscarries or is prevented ?

They then retire in a scattered manner by circuitous routes, and one man is sent the shortest road with the intelligence.

190. Where do those scattered men re-assemble ?

At some point previously fixed on, on one side of the camp.

191. What is the strength of small patrols ?

From three to five men.

192. What men are thus employed ?

The relieved videttes.

193. How far do they go ?

From 1000 to 2000 paces beyond the chain of videttes.

194. What is their duty ?

To search ravines, broken ground, and in general the country within the horizon of the army.

195. Why is this so very necessary ?

To be certain that no enemy has crept in unperceived, and prepared in ambush.

196. What is of the most importance when patrols return ?

An orderly and clear report.

197. When is a report orderly ?

When the events are recorded in succession of time and place, as they have happened.

198. When is a report clear ?

When, without illusion, the events are so described that it is possible for the receiver of the report to form a clear conception of the circumstances therein contained.

199. What is meant by this illusion ?

False judgments of distances, ground, troops, and other objects.

200. How is this to be avoided ?

By exercising the eye in this judgment on those objects which are within reach.

SECTION III.

ACTION.

A.—Preparation.

201. What is understood by action ?

That forcible act from which the enemy sustains all possible injury.

202. Is there any other cause for action ?

Yes : to prevent the enemy's intentions, when he evinces a like disposition towards us.

203. How are these different modes of action denominated ?

Offensive and defensive.

204. What is offensive action ?

When the enemy is attacked by us.

205. What is defensive action ?

When we defend ourselves against the attacks of the enemy.

206. What information must be obtained previous to an attack ?

The knowledge of the ground upon which the engagement is likely to take place.

207. How is this obtained ?

By means of spies, deserters, or prisoners.

208. What is farther necessary, even with a small division before an attack can be undertaken ?

The commander must form a plan of operation.

209. What is to be regarded in this ?

The strength and resolution of the enemy, the disposability of his troops, the order and time of attack, the pursuit of the enemy ; and the covering of the retreat.

210. What is the first thing required in defensive action ?

A well chosen position.

211. When may a position taken to defend any point be considered as well chosen ?

When it is so far placed behind the point which it is intended to defend, that a vigorous charge can be made towards that point.

212. Is there any exception to this situation ?

It sometimes happens that an effective carbine-fire is better applied.

213. For example ?

When the enemy wishes to debouch from a defile, or when a ditch is situated between us and him, which neither can pass over.

214. Is no plan necessary in defensive warfare ?

Yes ; as soon as a position is occupied, a plan must be formed.

215. And how ?

Much in the same manner as in offensive operations.

216. Why ?

Because even when acting on the defensive, one division must ever be in readiness to attack.

217. What is the advantage of this ?

It is a security against surprise, and enables us to anticipate the enemy's attack, which is a main point for cavalry.

218. What further must the commanding officer observe with regard to his plan ?

He must communicate it to the next in command.

219. For what reason ?

That the troops may not be left without orders, in case of any thing happening to him.

B.—*Skirmishing.*

220. How is an engagement commenced ?
By skirmishing.

221. What is skirmishing ?

An engagement in open line.

44 FIELD SERVICE OF CAVALRY.

222. What is its use with regard to the enemy ?

To acquire a knowledge of his momentary position, and of the ground immediately in front.

223. And with regard to us ?

Our own strength is concealed behind it.

224. Why are open lines employed ?

On account of their great movability, and because the fire of the enemy, particularly cannon shot, cannot easily affect them.

225. What must skirmishers be cautious of, with regard to our artillery ?

They must take care not to interrupt its operations, by not placing themselves in the line of fire.

226. Suppose skirmishers are pressed by the enemy ?

They then disperse, moving from the centre, towards each side.

227. But if the enemy really attacks ?

They then fall upon him in flank.

228. What is the use of skirmishers in defensive warfare ?

They entice the enemy into ambush by a pretended flight.

229. Where is further information on this subject to be found ?

In the Instruction for Skirmishing.

C.—Engagement.

230. What is understood by engagement ?

The real rencontre or conflict with the enemy.

231. What is the duty of good troops during an engagement ?

They should advance courageously, and resolutely, and energetically execute the given orders.

232. If this is neglected ?

They are eternally disgraced by their cowardice.

233. What are the best means of overcoming the enemy in a close attack ?

The lances or swords of the first rank in a rapid charge.

234. How does the second rank act ?

It penetrates the void spaces, and completes the defeat of the enemy, by cutting them down with the sword.

235. Is it otherwise in an individual attack ?

Here, a correct aim, expertness in riding, and in the use of the sword, are of value.

236. What is the principal rule in every engagement ?

To anticipate the enemy's attack.

237. Who generally gains the victory ?

The most courageous.

238. But when the enemy is superior in number ?

Fortune always favours the bold.

PART THE SECOND.

ON THE SERVICE OF CAVALRY IN REFERENCE TO THE ENEMY.

SECTION I.

RECONNOITRING.

A.—*Open.*

239. What is reconnoitring?

Obtaining information of the enemy's army, or his position.

240. How is such information obtained?

48 **FIELD SERVICE OF CAVALRY.**

By means of small bodies of troops sent towards the enemy.

241. What is open reconnoitring ?

When the intended object is obtained by attack.

242. What is the object of open reconnoitring ?

To examine the entire position of the enemy's army.

243. How do the troops conduct themselves on such occasions ?

As when engaged.

B.—Secret.

244. What is the design of secret reconnoitring ?

To examine individual parts of the enemy's army, or their positions.

245. What should be the strength of such detachments ?

At most thirty.

246. Why not stronger ?

Because a small number can move with greater ease and secrecy.

247. What should be the strength of a detachment intended for a very venturous and secret expedition.

From eight to twelve.

248. May they engage ?—No.

249. May the march against the enemy be open ?

No : as secret as possible.

250. What is done as soon as they reach the destined spot ?

They place themselves in ambush, plant posts around them at a little distance, and steal towards the enemy with a few men.

251. What time of the day is most favourable for this disposition ?

Noon, at which time it is not usual to send out patrols.

252. If they think themselves discovered what is to be done ?

A retreat must be made upon some point previously determined on.

253. What is to be done if the enemy attacks ?

His attack must be anticipated, and a furious charge made.

254. But should the enemy be considerably stronger ?

Then he may, at least be surprised by a sudden attack, and time gained to disperse, after which a retreat must be made on some previously determined point, as quick as possible.

255. Can success be expected from this ?

Yes : presence of mind and bravery fetter fortune ; in the worst case, the enemy cannot pursue faster than we fly.

256. What is principally to be provided on secret enquiries ?

Confidential guides.

257. May such persons be ill treated ?

No : they must be well treated, as by that means only is information to be obtained from them.

258. What is to be avoided on secret expeditions ?

High roads, and inhabited places.

259. Where are the horses to be fed ?

In woods or retired places.

260. At what time are they fed ?

When the enemy's patrols are in motion, because at this time the roads are unsafe, and the march cannot be prudently continued.

261. May fires be made ?

No : all must be provided with cold provisions.

262. What is to be done in case of falling in with any of the inhabitants ?

They are to be kept under surveillance.

263. Why is this done ?

In order that they may not be able to betray us.

264. Where are the detachments to feed in winter, when it is no longer possible in the open air ?

In mills, single houses, and small villages.

265. May the troops disperse themselves in many houses.

No : they must remain in one building.

266. What is further to be done for security ?

Videttes are to be posted, and from two to three men sent towards the enemy.

267. What is to be observed in marching out ?

The troops are to be marched out in a direction different from the one which they intend to take.

268. What is to be done when the place is no longer in sight ?

They are then to march across the fields in the true direction.

269. Why is this done ?

To be secure from enquiry.

270. What is to be observed on every halt ?

A knowledge of the bearings of the country should be obtained.

271. Why is this necessary ?

In order that every individual may be acquainted with the direction in which the detachment is to retreat when dispersed.

272. What is to be done when a column of the enemy approaches ?

An ambush should be formed, and the troops concealed there until the column has passed by.

273. What is to be done when the enemy surrounds an ambush ?

They must cut their way through them, scatter, and endeavour to reach a wood.

54 FIELD SERVICE OF CAVALRY.

274. When this is accomplished, what should next be done ?

An alarm should be made as if this wood was in our possession.

275. What are false reconnoissances ?

When the enemy is deceived with regard to our real intentions.

276. By what means is this accomplished ?

By alarming the enemy in many points at the same time.

277. How is the enemy reconnoitred during his march ?

From an ambush, *id est*, from some secret place of observation, possession of which must have been obtained before the enemy had arrived in that neighbourhood.

278. In what consists the greatest difficulty of reconnoitring ?

In forming a true and correct judgment of every thing.

279. By what is the direction of an enemy's march discovered ?

By the rising of the dust, or the glittering of the arms.

280. And by what when a column moves towards us ?

By the reflection from the arms falling upon the eye.

281. By what when it moves from us ?

By the glare being interrupted, and only seen on the tops of the bayonets.

282. Is it sufficient to depend upon what is seen of the enemy ?

No: still further information must be sought.

283. By what means ?

By means of the inhabitants of the country, good spies, and particularly from prisoners.

284. In what manner are prisoners made ?

By falling upon the passing orderlies, small patrols, &c. from an ambuscade.

56 FIELD SERVICE OF CAVALRY.

285. What is to be observed on this occasion?

That no man escape who may betray us.

SECTION II.

A.—Coup de Main.

286. What is called a coup de main ?

A well directed, unexpected attack upon the enemy.

287. How is such an attack to be executed ?

With force and rapidity.

288. What is necessary to ensure the success of such an attack ?

That the enemy shall not have obtained any previous knowledge of it.

289. What must be accurately known before a coup de main is undertaken ?

The enemy's position, and its connexion with other hostile positions.

290. But suppose the enemy to be in march ?

His direction of march.

291. What conditions are essential to the success of a coup de main ?

Secresy in preparation, and rapidity in execution.

292. When should a coup de main be undertaken ?

When little can be lost and much gained.

293. How is this to be understood ?

When, for example, under the protection of the ground, an advantageous attack can be made, and little loss anticipated.

294. What is a fundamental principle of such attacks ?

That freedom of retreat be preserved.

295. What is necessary for this object ?

That the bridges and defiles should be occupied, and the previously determined direction known to all.

296. How is the retreat performed ?

Generally *en échequier*, and with the greatest rapidity.

297. What weather is most favourable to the attack ?

Stormy, and generally bad weather.

298. Why ?

Because at such times a coup de main is least expected by the enemy.

299. At what time is a coup de main generally made ?

Some hours before day-break.

300. In what case may also an attack by day be made ?

When the enemy has adopted injudicious measures for safety.

301. What is to be understood by this ?

When the enemy has encamped without sending out patrols ; when the line of vi-dettes is imperfectly posted, and the intervals are too great ; when the enemy has un-

brilled at mid-day, and the men either on account of the great heat or cold have made themselves comfortable.

302. In what manner is the enemy generally attacked?

Either from an ambuscade, or by secretly approaching his position.

303. How is the enemy to be attacked when in march?

By suddenly rushing from the ambuscade, and falling upon him on all sides.

304. What is the most favourable ground for an ambuscade?

An open space, where thick covered heights, dells, &c. conceal us from the enemy.

305. How is the enemy's position approached?

Secretly and closely, under favour of the night, of a fog, or of the ground.

306. How may the enemy's videttes be deceived?

By the advanced guard assuming the appearance of a friendly patrol or of deserters.

307. What is of use for this purpose ?

Clothing the men at the head of the column in the uniform of the enemy.

308. But when neither disguise is possible, and that the enemy's videttes discover us, what is to be done ?

The advanced guard attacks the enemy's vidette silently and unexpectedly, endeavouring to surprise him, and to make prisoners.

309. What is the mode of proceeding on falling in with the enemy's patrols, and being discovered by them ?

The same as before mentioned with regard to the videttes : they must be attacked and made prisoners, or else an endeavour must be made to reach the enemy at the same time as they do.

310. What is best to be done when we

are discovered by the enemy, and secrecy is no longer possible ?

To attack in full gallop without deliberation.

311. What advantage is gained thereby ?

The enemy does not obtain time to place himself in a state of defence.

312. Is this advisable in all cases ?

Yes : whoever wishes for success must decide quickly.

313. What is further necessary to be organized before the attack ?

Signals of attack and recognition, and the rendezvous.

314. How then is the attack made ?

So quick that the enemy has no time to fire.

315. In what case is it most probable that a coup de main will succeed ?

When the enemy's position can be surrounded, and attacked in the rear.

316. What is to be done when openings appear in the enemy's line ?

They should be rushed through with the greatest force.

317. What is the tendency of this ?

The enemy is put into disorder, and dispersed.

318. What is done with the prisoners ?

They are disarmed, and sent to the reserve.

319. But if it is ordered that no pardon should be given ?

They are then all cut down.

320. Whom should a dragoon principally endeavour to take prisoners ?

Generals and officers of high rank.

321. If guns are found in the neighbourhood what is done with them ?

They are either carried off, or spiked.

322. When the enemy's baggage, magazines, or the like, are found ?

What cannot be taken away is either burned or destroyed.

323. May a dragoon dismount during an attack?

In no case.

324. May individuals remain behind, enter houses, and plunder them?

No: such acts detract from military honour, and are punished in the severest manner.

B.—Harassing.

325. What is the use of harassing the enemy's line of posts?

To cause the enemy to march out every day, to tire him, and to make him by that means discontented with his position.

326. What arises from this?

The enemy at last becomes careless, or a bad spirit is often spread among the troops.

327. By what other means is the enemy seduced into carelessness ?

By an apparently timid and quiet demeanour.

328. Are many troops employed on these occasions ?

No : for the principal aim is to bring many into motion by means of a few.

329. In what case only can this be done ?

By night, or in thick and foggy weather, when the enemy cannot ascertain our real strength.

330. How is the advance made against the line of posts ?

By different roads.

331. How is the attack made ?

In an open line of skirmishers, quick, noisy, and with much clatter.

332. Is a longer delay necessary after the object is attained ?

No : immediately after this the retreat must be commenced.

333. On what account ?

Because it is necessary to the safety of the party that they should be out of the enemy's reach before day-break.

334. On such occasions what should cavalry be particularly observant of ?

To avoid being cut off, and not to deviate from the retreat, which is generally made with rapidity.

C.—*Sham Attack.*

335. What is the use of sham attacks ?

To deceive the enemy.

336. What is their object ?

To divide the attention of the enemy, and divert it from the real point of attack.

337. Where can sham attacks have most effect ?

On extended positions.

338. Why ?

Because here the enemy, on account of his

great extent, is not strong on any point, and cannot so quickly send the necessary assistance.

339. How do the men conduct themselves?

As in harassing.

340. What is to be further deduced from this section as a general rule?

That in all situations it is of importance that such measures for safety should be taken as will ensure our neither being surprised or deceived by the enemy.

SECTION III.

PETTY WARFARE.

341. What is to be understood under the head of petty warfare?

Those operations of war by which the enemy is deprived of his provisions and ammunition, and by which the communication with his resources are cut off.

342. What is to be understood here under the head of provisions?

All that is necessary for the support of an army—as well food for the men, as forage for the horses.

343. What is understood by ammunition?

The stores of powder, lead, ball, cannon, arms, &c. which serve to keep up the supply.

344. Where are these objects generally found ?

Either in fixed or moveable magazines.

345. What are fixed magazines ?

Such as are formed in fortified places.

346. What are moveable magazines ?

Such as follow the army from one place to another.

347. In what manner are operations carried on against these different stores ?

By either carrying off or destroying the moveable magazines of the enemy.

348. What is meant by the communication of the enemy with his resources ?

The connexion with those fortresses where established magazines are.

349. How are those communications interrupted ?

By getting possession of those roads in rear of the enemy's army which lead to the fortified places.

350. What therefore is the object of petty warfare ?

The carrying off or destroying the enemy's stores, seizing upon his convoys, depôts, &c. interrupting the communication with his own country, or with those fortresses from which he draws his supplies.

351. What are those particular troops which are employed on this duty named ?

Parties, or partisan-troops.

352. What is generally the duty of these parties ?

To do the enemy all possible injury.

353. Where is the principal scene of action of the partisan troops ?

In rear of the hostile army.

354. What qualifications are particularly required for those troops who form parties ?

Boldness, patience, perseverance, and endurance.

355. In what manner are they posted,

and what is the nature of their movement and attack ?

Precisely similar to that pointed out in the fifth part, for the position, movement, and attack of light cavalry.

356. What is a fundamental principle of petty warfare, or the war of partisans ?

That its operations be concealed from the enemy.

357. In what manner does a party provide for its safety when at rest ?

According to the manner adopted by secret reconnoitring parties, or as a field guard.

358. As parties may soon find themselves surrounded by the enemy, it is not so easy to provide for their safety ?

No : it requires the greatest precaution, subtlety, and artifice.

359. What is particularly important in this warfare ?

To lead the enemy astray by constantly

72 FIELD SERVICE OF CAVALRY.

drawing him about, and by false intelligence.

360. May a partisan troop remain long in a place ?

No : it must be always in motion.

361. In what manner do partisan troops move ?

After the manner of a secret march, *id est*, avoiding the high road.

362. Where does a party find the greatest protection ?

In woods.

363. How does a party pass through the enemy's chain of posts ?

Under favour of the night.

364. In what case by day ?

When, by the assistance of the ground, or bad weather, the advance can be concealed.

365. What is the most favourable time of the day for this object ?

Noon, when no patrols are sent out.

366. What is indispensably necessary for such an undertaking ?

Safe spies as guides, who must be mounted.

367. What must be observed with regard to these guides ?

Not to confide in them, or blindly give up to them, and not to have them relieved at each village : this is the surest way to be led into error ; the best time for relieving them is in the morning when the march is resumed.

368. May guides, and the inhabitants of the country in general be confided in, and may our plans and intentions be communicated to them ?

Never.

369. How, however, should these inhabitants be treated ?

With the greatest forbearance and kindness, in order to make friends of them.

370. Upon what principle ?

E

Because otherwise they would betray us, and deprive us of provisions.

371. Against what should a party at all times, and on all occasions, be particularly on its guard ?

Of a coup de main of the enemy.

372. What, on the contrary, should he always aim at ?

Surprising the enemy.

373. When is the enemy surprised with the best success ?

When an attack is least expected by him, viz. when he imagines himself safe, and has no suspicion of the enemy's approach in any direction.

374. When a party unexpectedly falls in with the enemy on his march, what is to be done ?

They must attack him at full speed.

375. Why is it necessary that the attack should be rapid ?

In order that the enemy shall have no time to deliberate, and to prevent the infantry, for example, from forming any more squares.

376. In what case only can an attack upon infantry be attended with success?

When it is executed with real bravery, force, and rapidity.

377. When may an attack on cavalry be successful?

When they can be attacked in flank and rear.

378. What have cavalry to observe on all these occasions?

With the greatest courage unhesitatingly to follow their leader, and with resolution and bravery to fall upon the enemy and cut him down.

379. What is to be done after a successful attack?

An endeavour should be made to reach a

wood, and there deposit the booty, &c. in safety.

380. How is an attack upon the enemy's quarter, depôt, magazine, &c. conducted ?

In the same manner as a coup-de-main.

381. How is a village attacked ?

It is approached as secretly as possible, and on a given signal rushed into at full speed on all sides.

382. What is a general rule ?

To return by a road different from the one by which the advance was made, in order to avoid falling into an ambuscade.

383. How is baggage taken ?

It is approached under protection of the ground, and rapidly attacked with a division of troops.

384. What is to be done with the plunder ?

What cannot be taken away, is destroyed.

385. How is the attack on the magazines

of a column, or other warlike stores, conducted?

A partisan should ever unhesitatingly attack.

386. What period is particularly favorable for this?

When the convoy is in a defile, or rough ground where no barricado can be formed.

387. What is first done in such a case?

The escort is first overpowered.

388. But what is to be done in case the enemy has been able to form a barricado?

The time when he resumes his march must be chosen for attack.

389. How is an attack upon the enemy's foraging party conducted?

The troops are divided into three parts, and are placed under protection of the ground, to await the moment when the enemy is dispersed in villages.

390. How do these three parts act?

The first attacks the post outside the village,

the second enters it, to make the party prisoners, and the third forms the reserve.

. 391. What is a general rule on each division of partisan troops previous to an engagement ?

To point out a general place of rendezvous.

392. Why ?

Because an operation may miscarry, and the partisans be dispersed.

393. What is to be done when an operation fails ?

The partisan troops move off to other parts of the country, to avoid pursuit.

394. May a partisan troop allow itself to be discouraged, or dispirited by the failure of an operation ?

Certainly not : it must rather think of taking revenge, and of again surprising the enemy by a still bolder attack.

395. How ought cavalry to conduct themselves during all these operations ?

With obedience and bravery.

396. On the forcible collection of provisions, how should the men conduct themselves towards the inhabitants ?

Friendly and humane.

397. May a dragoon steal into a single house, and take anything more than he is ordered, such as money ?

No ! this would be disgraceful and repugnant to the feelings of an upright soldier.

398. May a dragoon plunder during the battle, strip the dead, &c. ?

No ! the brave man seeks only for renown, and not for plunder.

399. How should a dragoon conduct himself towards prisoners ?

Generous and highminded, which are the qualifications of a truly brave cavalry soldier.

400. How does a dragoon act when he is obliged to give up the field to the enemy ?

Each file closes up and follows its leader.

401. What is the effect of this ?

A firmer body is formed, which can cut through the most numerous enemy.

402. When a dragoon is so unfortunate as to be taken prisoner, how is he to conduct himself ?

Not pusillanimously, but with dignity and propriety, by which he will acquire respect even from the enemy : a brave man is every where esteemed.

403. When he is questioned with regard to our army, may he tell truth ?

No : he must rather by short and resolute answers, cause the enemy, even when he is a prisoner, to respect him.

404. How is a dragoon to act when his horse is shot ?

He must endeavour to obtain a stray horse, or booty horse, which is often found during an engagement.

405. May a wounded man leave the field ?

Not until his wounds prevent him from riding or fighting.

406. When a dragoon's ammunition fails, or his arms become unserviceable, how is he to proceed ?

He must take ammunition and arms from the dead.

407. When a dragoon sees that his officer is in danger, how is he to act ?

He must call his comrades, hurry to the post where the danger is, rush himself, if necessary, upon the enemy, and rescue his officer.

408. What is the reward of a gallant dragoon, who thus on all occasions performs his duty ?

Respect and honourable treatment from his superiors, as well as the regard of his comrades.

409. Is that all ?

Oh, no ! his commanding officer will re-commend him for reward to the king.

410. If, however, a dragoon should achieve some uncommonly gallant deed, what is the consequence ?

His name will be proclaimed to the whole army and to his country !

THE END.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's-court.



